



THE JOINT STAFF

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

J-5 (PLANS AND POLICY) DIRECTORATE

DECLASSIFIED BY:
JCS DECLASSIFICATION BRANCH

DATE

4 April 1979

J-5 M 99-58
17 December 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Secretary, Joint Chiefs of Staff

Subject: State-Defense-JCS Ad Hoc Working Group
Report on Possible Courses of Action on
Berlin (U)

References: a. J.C.S. 1907/157
b. J.C.S. 1907/160
c. Joint State-Defense Message, State to
Bonn No. 1236, dated 11 December 1958

1. On 28 November 1958, the subject report* was referred to the J-5 for comment and recommendation. In view of the actions described below it is considered that a requirement for comment and recommendation on the subject report has been overtaken by events.

2. On 24 November 1958, the Joint Chiefs of Staff by their action on reference a:

a. Noted position papers concerning the implications** involved should it become necessary to use military force to maintain allied rights and position in Berlin, and the implications*** of a Berlin airlift in support of allied military forces in Berlin, and authorized their use as Joint Staff position papers in the State-Defense-JCS Ad Hoc Working Group.

b. Agreed to forward a memorandum,**** together with its appendix, to the Secretary of Defense which recommended, among other things, that British and French agreement be sought to inform the USSR that we do not intend to recognize or deal with the GDR; that we will

* Enclosure to J.C.S. 1907/158
** Enclosure "A" to J.C.S. 1907/157
*** Enclosure "B" to J.C.S. 1907/157
**** Enclosure "C" to J.C.S. 1907/157

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not allow the GDR to impede the exercise of our rights; that we will not accept any control by the GDR over our movements to and from Berlin; and that we will use force if necessary to enforce our rights. It was also recommended that British and French accord be secured to seize the initiative by proposing a four-power conference on Germany.

3. On 8 December 1958, the Joint Chiefs of Staff by their decision* on reference b. forwarded a memorandum to the Secretary of Defense which noted that a proposed memorandum** by the Secretary of Defense for the Secretary of State coincided with their views and agreed that the Secretary of Defense should inform the Secretary of State along the lines of the proposed memorandum.

4. Accordingly, on 9 December 1958, in a memorandum for the Secretary of State the Acting Secretary of Defense stated that the State-Defense Ad Hoc Working Group Report*** had been reviewed by the Department of Defense in light of the Soviet note of 27 November 1958, and expressed**** the Department of Defense views that action should be taken without delay in the following respects:

a. Revision of tripartite contingency plans to eliminate all dealings with GDR officials.

b. U.S. official personnel traveling to and from Berlin should be instructed not to accept control of their movements by East German personnel.

c. Presidential approval should be obtained which will authorize action to test GDR and Soviet intentions by dispatching a convoy supported by appropriate force if checkpoints are turned over to the GDR.

d. Informing the Soviet Government; with British, French and West German agreement; that the Western Allies do not intend to deal with the GDR; will not allow the GDR to impede the exercise of rights; will not accept any GDR control over movements to and from

* Decision on J.C.S. 1907/160

** Appendix to Enclosure to J.C.S. 1907/159

*** Enclosure to J.C.S. 1907/158

**** N/H of J.C.S. 1907/160, dated 11 December 1958

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Berlin; and will use force if necessary to enforce our rights.

The memorandum also expressed the view that an airlift should be undertaken as a last resort and the hope that the United States can seize the initiative early in the present situation.

5. On 11 December 1958, a message (reference c.), cleared at the NSC Meeting on 11 December 1958, was dispatched to the American Embassy in Bonn which delineated an approved U.S. course of action in consonance with the foregoing views and the recommendations contained in the subject report.*

6. In light of the foregoing it is concluded that there is no longer a requirement for comment and recommendation on the subject report.*

7. I recommend that the requirement directed in J.C.S. 1907/158, dated 28 November 1958, be withdrawn, and that the subject report* be circulated for information. J-3 concurs.


DOUGLAS V. JOHNSON
Major General, USA
Director, J-5

* Enclosure to J.C.S. 1907/158

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